

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/077,408

Examiner

Tuan T. Lam

Applicant(s)

BLAIR ET AL.

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 10/18/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 May 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

TUAN T. LAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The following changes have been made to the subject application:

Claim 3:

Lines 5-6, "the latch circuit" has been changed to --at least one latch circuit of the plurality of latch circuits--.

Claim 7:

Lines 9-10, "the latch circuit" has been changed to --at least one latch circuit of the plurality of latch circuits--.

Claim 8:

Line 10, after "first", --output-- has been inserted.

Claim 9:

Line 10, after "first", --output-- has been inserted.

The changes have been made to provide proper antecedent basis for the latch circuit and the first drive signal in order to place the application in a condition for allowance.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the amendment filed 10/18/2004 has overcome the prior art of record. The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest applying one of the pair of pulse width modulated signals both to a set input of a plurality of latch circuits and to a delay circuit, applying the other of the pair of pulse width modulated signals to a reset input of the plurality of latch circuits as called for in claim 1,

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plurality of toggle circuits, connected to said first and second control signal supplying means, at least one toggle circuit of the plurality of toggle circuits supplying a first output drive signal level upon detecting a given characteristic of a first pulse width modulated control signal received from said first supplying means and supplying a second output drive signal level upon detecting said given characteristic of a second pulse width modulated control signal received from said second supplying means as called for in claim 2, applying one of the pair of first pulse width modulated signals to a set input of a plurality of latch circuits as well as to a turn on delay circuit wherein the turn on delay circuit is such that an output voltage transition of the turn on delay circuit coincides with an output voltage transition of at least one latch circuit of the plurality of latch circuits as called for in claims 3-9. Therefore, claims 1-9 are presently allowed.

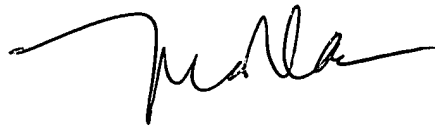
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T. Lam whose telephone number is 571-272-1744. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday (7:30 am to 6:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TIMOTHY P CALLAHAN can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuan T. Lam', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tuan T. Lam
Primary Examiner
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11/24/2004